

submissions and all available information. As a matter of discretion, the Administrator or designated representative may hold a hearing on the proposed action and make a decision based on the hearing record. The decision will be communicated in writing to the interested parties and the Coast Guard. In the review process, the decision of the Maritime Administrator is the final disposition. In the absence of any petition for review, the determination by the Director, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping, becomes final on the sixth business day after the decision. The Secretary, MARAD, may extend any of the time limits, but only for good cause shown.

PART 389—DETERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY OF COASTWISE-QUALIFIED LAUNCH BARGES

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 322(a); 46 U.S.C. 55102; 46 U.S.C. 55108; Public Law 108–293, 118 Stat 1028; 49 CFR 1.66.

SOURCE: 73 FR 30787, May 29, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

§ 389.1 Purpose.

This part prescribes regulations implementing the provisions of section 417 of Public Law 108–293, which grants the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Maritime Administration, the authority to review and approve applications for determinations of availability of coastwise-qualified launch barges. Owners or operators of proposed platform jackets may submit information regarding a specific platform jacket transport, placement and/or launch project, following the procedures set forth in this regulation, in order for us to determine whether a suitable coastwise-qualified barge is available for the project. If we determine a suitable coastwise-qualified launch barge is not available, then a non-coastwise qualified foreign-built launch barge may be used.

§ 389.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Part:

“*Administrator*” means the Maritime Administrator.

“*Coastwise-qualified Vessel*” means a vessel that has been issued a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement under 46 U.S.C. 12112.

Coastwise Trade Laws include:

(1) The Coastwise Endorsement Provision of the Vessel Documentation Laws, (46 U.S.C. 12112);

(2) The Passenger Services Act, section 8 of the Act of June 19, 1886 (46 U.S.C. 55103);

(3) The Jones Act, section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 U.S.C. 55102); and

(4) Section 2(c) of the Shipping Act of 1916 (46 U.S.C. 50501).

“*Launch barge*” means a vessel that is technically capable of transporting and, if needed, launching or installing an offshore drilling or production platform jacket in a timely manner.

“*Foreign launch barge*”, for the purpose of this rule, means a non-coastwise-qualified launch barge that was built before December 31, 2000, and has a launch capacity of 12,000 long tons or more.

A “*long ton*” equals 2,240 pounds.

“*Platform Jacket*” refers to a single physical component and includes any type of offshore exploration, development, or production structure or component thereof, including platform jackets, tension leg or SPAR platform superstructures (including the deck, drilling rig and support utilities, and supporting structure), hull (including vertical legs and connecting pontoons or vertical cylinder), tower and base sections of a platform jacket, jacket structures, and deck modules (known as “*topsides*”).

“*Secretary*” means the Secretary of the Maritime Administration, who will route the correspondence to the proper office within the Maritime Administration for handling.

“*Classed as a launch barge by a recognized classification society*” means that the vessel holds a current classification document to be used as a launch barge by at least one of the following classification societies: American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Bureau Veritas (BV), Lloyd’s Register (LR), Germanischer

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Lloyd (GL), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), or Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK).

“*Applicant*” means the offshore development company as identified to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in their Development Production Plan (DPP) or Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD), who has applied to the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for a waiver.

§ 389.3 Registration

In order to provide timely notification and to identify the potential participants to each other so they may examine how they can best work together to maximize the use of coastwise-qualified launch barges, we will require early notification as outlined in this section.

(a) In January of each calendar year, the Maritime Administration will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER requesting that owners or operators or potential owners or operators of coastwise-qualified launch barges notify us of:

(1) Their interest in participating in the transportation and, if needed, the launching or installation of offshore platform jackets; and,

(2) Provide us with contact information for their company; and,

(3) Provide specifications of any currently owned or operated coastwise-qualified launch barges or plans to construct same.

(b) When current or potential owners or operators of any type of offshore exploration, development, or production structure expect to need the use of a launch barge they must notify the Maritime Administration. Such notification must be the earlier of either:

(1) The filing of their Development and Production Plan (DPP) or Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD) with the Minerals Management Service as required by 30 CFR 250.201; or

(2) Not later than twenty-one (21) months before the proposed date of using a launch barge.

(c) The early notification information to be provided to the Maritime Administration by the platform owner or operator shall include:

(1) A summary of technical details of the platform jacket that will need to

be transported and, if needed, launched or installed; and,

(2) The projected physical requirements for a suitable launch barge to be used in this project; and,

(3) The projected time period and load and launching sites for the launch barge operation; and,

(4) Full contact information for the company and the individuals having decision-making authority with respect to the utilization of the launch barge and the transportation and, if needed, the launching or installation of the platform jacket.

(d) The information in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section must be submitted either electronically to cargo.marad@dot.gov or delivered to the Secretary, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Any information that is business confidential must be so noted and accompanied by a justification.

(e) We will publish a list of potential coastwise-qualified launch barge owners/operators on our Web site at <http://marad.dot.gov>. We will publish a summary of the early notification information in paragraph (c) of this section on the website and also disseminate it to the registered potential coastwise-qualified launch barge owners/operators.

§ 389.4 Application and fee.

(a) When, after surveying the market and discussing the platform project with potential coastwise-qualified launch barge owners/operators, it appears that coastwise-qualified vessels will not be available, the platform jacket owner/operator may apply to the Maritime Administration for a determination of non-availability and request to use a foreign launch barge.

(1) The fully complete application must be submitted to the Secretary, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590 at least 120 days prior to the proposed launch barge operations date.

(2) We reserve the right to waive or reduce or extend the time requirements based upon our evaluation of any national emergency or other situation.

(b) Applications must contain the information set forth in paragraphs (c)